1998-99, issued on 13th August, 2001. IGNCA has been advised to finalise the Action Taken Report and to take effective steps to meet the observations in the audit report, particularly with regard to accounting issues.

Decline in underground water level in Delhi

*24. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the level of underground water is going down rapidly in the NCT of Delhi;

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to meet the effects of such decline;

(c) what are the other sources for making water available to the people; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to popularise rain water harvesting?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government is aware that ground water levels in some parts of NCT of Delhi are declining.

(b) The Government has taken following steps to check the decline in the ground water level in Delhi:—

(i) Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) has notified South and South West district of NCT of Delhi, prohibiting further digging of wells.

(ii) CGWA has imposed ban on abstraction of ground water resources for sale and supply by private agencies/persons from the "Notified areas" except Yamuna Flood plain area of NCT of Delhi.

(iii) Adoption of roof top rain water harvesting system has been made mandatory for group housing societies, institutions, schools, hotels, industrial establishments and farm houses located in 'notified areas'.

(iv) Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) is promoting artificial recharge to ground water in NCT of Delhi by financing proposals under its pilot Central Sector Scheme viz. "Studies on Artificial Recharge to Ground Water". Besides, the Board has assisted various agencies and individuals in preparation of proposals and provided technical guidance including design for construction of rain water harvesting structures.

(v) The Ministry of Urban Development & Poverty Alleviation has been requested to amend building bye-laws for incorporating rain water harvesting system.

(vi) The Delhi Jal Board (DJB) has undertaken works of rain water harvesting in its own buildings.

(c) The CGWB has identifed various sources and methods for augmenting ground water resources of NCT of Delhi like rain water harvesting, ground water development in flood plain of NCR/NCT of Delhi, on-channel and off-channel storage of storm water and recharge to ground water in seasonal nalas and major storm water drains, localised development of aquifers, development of brackish water aquifers and re-use of treated waste water for purposes other than drinking.

CGWB has prepared an action plan for development of ground water resources of Yamuna Flood Plain area of NCT of Delhi for augmenting water supply to NCT of Delhi. The Board has constructed 38 exploratory wells and 29 deposit wells under the plan in NCT of Delhi, which will yield about 34 Million Gallon per Day (MGD) of water.

In addition to above, 300 eusec of raw water will be obtained from Tehri Dam through Upper Ganga Canal. Delhi Jal Board (DJB) also plans to construct parallel lined channel from Munak to Haiderpur Water Treatment Plant to minimise seepage losses so as to enhance water availability. As and when storage dam on Yamuna river in the upper region are constructed, the availability of water shall get further enhanced.

(d) In order to popularise rain water harvesting, the CGWB and the DJB has conducted mass awareness and training programmes, painting competitions etc., in different areas of NCT of Delhi. In the notified areas of NCT of Delhi and surrounding areas where rain water harvesting is made mandatory special awareness programmes were also conducted. CGWB has also launched a web site containing relevant information on rain water harvesting.

Import duty on rubber

*225. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be plased to state:

(a) the import duty on rubber during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether any State Government has sought increase in the import duty on rubber;

(c) if so, the details threof; and

(d) the action taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a). Import duty on rubber during last three years, year wise:

	20002001 (Mar.-h-Feb)	.2001-2002 (March-Feb)	2002-2003 (March-Feb)
Natural Rubber latex, whether or not prevulcanised	38.5% (including Surcharge)	35% (Basic)	70% (Basic)
Natural Rubber in other forms *i.e* specified natural rubber & other	25% (Basic)	25% (Basic)	25% (Basic) smoked sheets, technically
Synthetic rubber	38.5% (including Surcharge)	35% (Basic)	30% (Basic)

Note: Additional duty and Special Additional Duty is also leviable on these products at appropriate rates.